

**PLATYPLEURA TEPPERI GODING & FROGGATT, 1904
(CICADOIDEA: CICADIDAE), A MADAGASCAN CICADA
ERRONEOUSLY RECORDED FROM AUSTRALIA**

M.S. MOULDS

Entomology Dept, Australian Museum, Sydney, NSW 2010 (Email: msmoulds@bigpond.net.au)

Abstract

The identity of the cicada *Platypleura tepperi* Goding & Froggatt, 1904 is resolved. It is not an Australian species, but a junior synonym of the Madagascan *Yanga guttulata* (Signoret, 1860).

Introduction

Platypleura tepperi was described by Goding and Froggatt (1904) from 'Northern Territory, Australia' from three specimens supposedly collected by J.G. Tepper, then entomologist at the South Australian Museum (SAM). Only a single specimen could be traced, a syntype male in the SAM (Figs 1-7). Although this specimen has long been considered of doubtful Australian origin (Burns 1957), its true origins have never been clarified. I have recently re-examined the SAM specimen and it has become clear that it is in fact a synonym of the Madagascan species *Yanga guttulata* (Signoret, 1860).



Fig. 1. Male syntype of *Platypleura tepperi*, SAM. Approximately 1.2 x natural size.

***Yanga guttulata* (Signoret)**

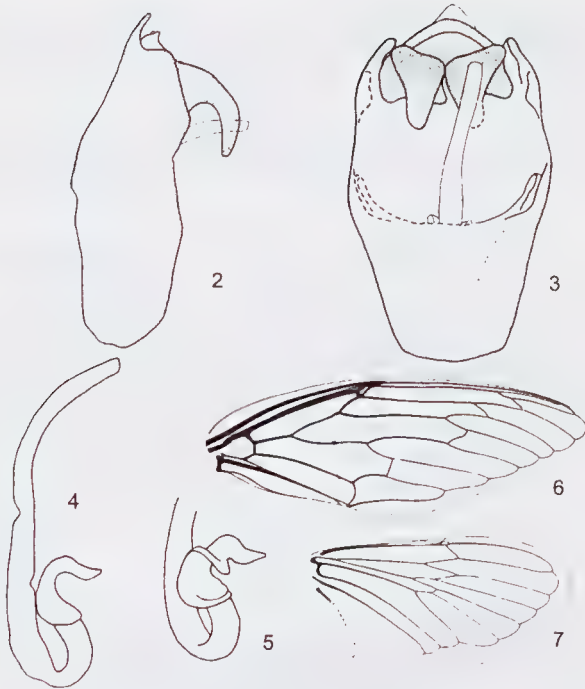
Platypleura guttulata Signoret, 1860: 178, pl. 4.

Yanga guttularis [sic]: Distant, 1905: 196.

Yanga guttulata: Distant, 1906: 17.

Platypleura tepperi Goding & Froggatt, 1904: 568-69. Male syntype in SAM, labelled 'N.Territory', '[?]:8', 'Platypleura Tepperi/ God.&Fr/ NorthernTerritory'; examined. **Syn. n.**

The SAM syntype of *P. tepperi* is unfortunately in poor condition, with faded colour, damaged hind wings and damaged genitalia. However, there is no doubt that the wing and body markings, colour and morphology match perfectly those of *Y. guttulata*, as do the male genitalia (Figs 2-5), although the latter do not always clearly delineate *Yanga* Distant spp. in Madagascar.



Figs 2-7. Male syntype of *Platycleura tepperi*. (2-3) genitalia in lateral and ventral views; (4-5) aedeagus in lateral view and basal plate in lateroventral view; (6-7) fore and hind wings showing venation.

Acknowledgements

Michel Boulard (MNHN, Paris), Martin Villet (Rhodes University, Grahamstown) and Mick Webb (NHM, London) helped in determining the identity of *P. tepperi*. Peter Hudson kindly lent the syntype and Ivan Nozaic did the drawings.

References

- BURNS, A.N. 1957. Check list of Australian Cicadidae. *Entomologischen Arbeiten aus dem Museum Georg Frey* 8: 609-678.
- DISTANT, W.L. 1905. Additions to a knowledge of the homopterous family Cicadidae. *Transactions of the Entomological Society of London* 1905: 191-202, pl. 11.
- DISTANT, W.L. 1906. *A synonymic catalogue of Homoptera. Part 1. Cicadidae*. British Museum, London. Pp. i-iii, 1-207. Facsimile reprint 1966, Johnson Reprint Corp., New York.
- GODING, F.W. and FROGGATT, W.W. 1904. Monograph of the Australian Cicadidae. *Proceedings of the Linnæan Society of New South Wales* 29: 561-670, pls 18-19.
- SIGNORET, V., 1860. Faune des Hémiptères de Madagascar. Ire partie. Homoptères. *Annales de la Société entomologique de France* (3)8: 177-206, pls 4-5.